

With all of these threats surrounding it, we need to stand side by side and let the world know—our enemies and our friends—that we are allies of Israel. They are the U.S.'s strongest ally.

Israel is the only democracy in the region and the only one that respects human rights. It is in their national security interest and our national security interest to ensure Israel can defend itself from the ever-changing military threats. The enemies they have in the neighborhood are enemies to us as well.

I support H.R. 1992. The bill will make sure, too, that Israel's enemies do not gain a military advantage over the State of Israel. I urge its passage.

And that's just the way it is.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the United States has no more important relationship, not just in the region but in the world, than the strategic, unbreakable alliance with the democratic Jewish State of Israel.

Israel's security is our security. Israel's security must not in any way be compromised.

As has been noted here already, Israel lives in a most dangerous neighborhood. Her security is dependent on a clearly demonstrated permanently sustained qualitative military edge. This bill, H.R. 1992, improves and enhances our relationship with Israel to guarantee her qualitative military edge in a very dangerous neighborhood.

I strongly urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 1992 and to protect Israel's security.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, let me again stress the importance of the relationship with our ally Israel.

Let me thank Mr. COLLINS for his leadership in authoring this important measure and thank Mr. SCHNEIDER. I am a cosponsor of this bill as well, and let me say we have many common threats, especially Iran's nuclear program.

This measure, H.R. 1992, is a testament to the American people's enduring commitment to the security of Israel. I hope to see it passed today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1992—the Israel QME Enhancement Act. I would like to commend the author of this legislation and colleague from Georgia, Mr. COLLINS, for his leadership on this issue. I would also like to thank the Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman ROYCE of California and Ranking Member ENGEL of New York on quickly moving this bill through the Committee.

Mr. Speaker, it goes without saying that our strongest ally in the Middle East is the State of Israel. It is, therefore, incumbent upon us to provide them with our unwavering support. In order to uphold this commitment, we must understand the ongoing security threats to Israel.

H.R. 1992 helps achieve this goal by increasing the frequency by which the Secretary of State must report to Congress on Israel's qualitative military edge (QME).

Unfortunately, Israel is constantly on alert from various threats to its existence, particularly cyber and asymmetric ones. In fact, regional, Iran has stated that its desire to "wipe Israel off of the map." Therefore, despite the interim agreement between the P5+1 that was adopted on November 24, 2013, I still believe that it is critically important that we prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability.

Congress took an important step during 2012 by implementing economic sanctions on Iran through the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012. This important legislation punishes individuals who knowingly sell more than 1,000,000 barrels of refined product, or individuals that sell, lease, or provide Iran with goods, services, technology, or information.

However, despite these sanctions, Iran's nuclear program has continued to grow. Earlier this year in June, the International Atomic Energy Agency stated that Tehran was violating international regulations by increasing the number of centrifuges. Although the November 24th interim agreement caps Iran's proliferation at 5%, I remain skeptical of Iran's motive for continued nuclear activity.

Mr. Speaker, that is why the bill we have before today is absolutely essential in assisting Israel. By increasing the QME reports delivered to Congress, we can oversee the potential emerging threats that Israel will face in the future. I urge all of my colleague to join me in supporting H.R. 1992.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, given the geopolitical history of the region, the U.S. fully understands Israel's need to be better armed than its neighbors.

Potentially threatening Arab countries surrounding Israel have superior numbers, which is the reason why Israel needs to maintain a qualitative edge.

As Iran creeps ever closer to obtaining a nuclear weapon, this qualitative edge has become all the more important.

As our closest ally in the region, we should do all we can to prevent Israel from being put in harm's way.

I believe the legislation before us today does precisely that and I thank the gentleman from Georgia and my colleague on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. COLLINS, for authoring this bill.

This legislation improves our policy of ensuring Israel's safety by better reflecting the security environment of its potential adversaries.

Israel is mostly attacked by unconventional weapons and those weapons should be considered into the QME.

As cyber-attacks are increasingly being used as a means of warfare, Israel needs to maintain a competitive edge, while countries such as Iran attempt to increase their cyber capabilities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FORTENBERRY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1992, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1436

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FORTENBERRY) at 2 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.

GABRIELLA MILLER KIDS FIRST RESEARCH ACT

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2019) to eliminate taxpayer financing of presidential campaigns and party conventions and reprogram savings to provide for a 10-year pediatric research initiative through the Common Fund administered by the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2019

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act".

SEC. 2. TERMINATION OF TAXPAYER FINANCING OF POLITICAL PARTY CONVENTIONS; USE OF FUNDS FOR PEDIATRIC RESEARCH INITIATIVE.

(a) TERMINATION OF PAYMENTS FOR CONVENTIONS; USE OF FUNDS FOR PEDIATRIC RESEARCH.—Section 9008 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(i) TERMINATION OF PAYMENTS FOR CONVENTIONS; USE OF AMOUNTS FOR PEDIATRIC RESEARCH INITIATIVE.—Effective on the date of the enactment of the Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act—

“(1) the entitlement of any major party or minor party to a payment under this section shall terminate; and

“(2) all amounts in each account maintained for the national committee of a major party or minor party under this section shall be transferred to a fund in the Treasury to be known as the ‘10-Year Pediatric Research Initiative Fund’, which shall be available only for the purpose provided in section 402A(a)(2) of the Public Health Service Act, and only to the extent and in such amounts as are provided in advance in appropriation Acts.”.

(b) CONTINUATION OF PRIORITY OF PAYMENTS FROM ACCOUNTS OVER PAYMENTS TO CANDIDATES.—

(1) AVAILABILITY OF PAYMENTS TO CANDIDATES.—The third sentence of section 9006(c) of such Code is amended by striking “section 9008(b)(3),” and inserting “section 9008(i)(2),”.